

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29801 142014Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 NASA-02 OES-05 ERDA-07 DRC-01 /110 W

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R 141835Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5210

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

UNCLAS PARIS 29801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AG, MO, SP, SS, FR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: LE MONDE ALLEGATIONS RE U.S.

MILITARY INTERESTS

REF: (A) ALGIERS 3222 311600Z OCT 75;

(B) MADRID 7631 031218Z NOV 75;

(C) STATE 260897 042037Z NOV 75.

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE  
APPEARING IN NOVEMBER 12 EDITION OF LE MONDE (ORIGINAL  
TEXT POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE.)

2. "THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE CANARY ISLANDS: THE  
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IN ALGIERS HAS ASKED US TO  
DENY THE EXISTENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN THE  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29801 142014Z

CANARY ISLANDS AND AMERICAN RADAR BASES AT CEUTA AND

MELILLA (LE MONDE OF OCTOBER 30). WE TAKE NOTE OF THIS DEMARCHE. HOWEVER, THE MPAIAC (MOVEMENT FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE CANARY ISLANDS) FURNISHES THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS: SINCE 1966 NASA HAS HAD INSTALLATIONS FOR PROJECTS MERCURY, GEMINI AND APOLLO LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND OF GRAND CANARY AT LAS PALMAS. THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE ALSO USED TO CONTROL SPY SATELLITES LIKE THE HS303A AND SAMOS, WHICH ARE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PENTAGON. ON THE ISLAND OF PALMA WHICH HAS THREE RADAR SYSTEMS FOR ANTI-MISSILE DEFENSE, THERE IS A SONAR BASE USED FOR THE CONTROL OF SUBMARINES AND SHIPS WHICH FOLLOW THE PETROLEUM SEA LANES. THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN AIR FORCES AT THE LARGE AIRPORT OF GRANADILLA, SOUTH OF TENERIFE, WHICH WAS COMPLETED LAST APRIL, MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MADRID CONCERNING THE RENEWAL OF AMERICAN BASES IN SPAIN. THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT AT LANZAROTE -- CAPABLE OF BEING USED AS A NAVAL BASE -- MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. THE CONTROL AND RADAR SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN THE DIFFERENT ISLANDS OF THE GROUP ARE MANNED BY AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ARE CONNECTED TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASE AT ROTA IN SPAIN THROUGH CADIZ AND KENITRA IN MOROCCO. THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE RADARS AT CEUTA AND MELILLA WHICH, IT IS TRUE, ARE SPANISH AND NOT AMERICAN. FINALLY, THE UNDERWATER CABLE WHICH CONNECTS LISBON WITH SOUTH AFRICA VIA TENERIFE IS USED FOR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC AND ALSO BY NATO AND NASA. SINCE THE RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, AN ADDITIONAL CABLE CONNECTS TENERIFE WITH THE UNITED STATES VIA RECIFE IN BRASIL."

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